NORTH CAROLINA Farm Report

COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

NO. 144 RALEIGH, N. C. OCTOBER 16, 1953

GENERAL SITUATION

The month of September continued dry until the week end of September 19 when scattered rains were received in some Mountain and Eastern areas; and on September 26 when generous rains were received over practically the entire State. Mostly open weather has prevailed since that time.

Conditions during the month were favorable for harvest of crops and such operations have been unusually active. Harvest of cotton during September was the heaviest in many years. By the end of the month practically all of Types 12 and

(Continued on Page 7)

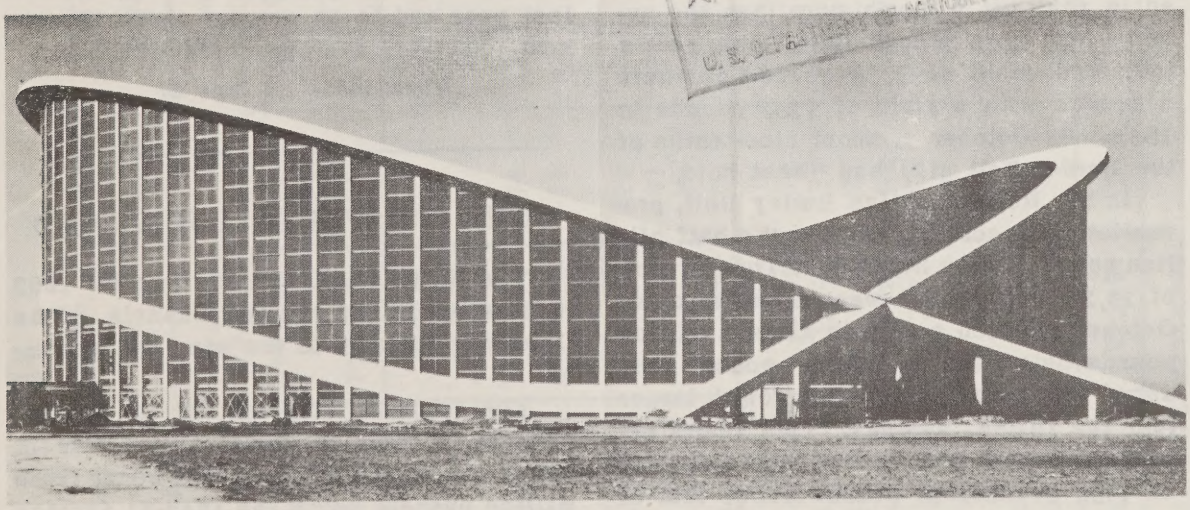
OCTOBER 1 TOBACCO REPORT

Total flue-cured tobacco production in North Carolina was estimated at 806,680,000 pounds as of October 1 -- 13 million pounds above the September 1 estimate. The estimate was based upon preliminary sales data and recent reports from growers. Present indications point to a crop 10 percent below production in 1952, but 4 percent above the 1942-51 average.

Prospective production of Type 11 tobacco in North Carolina -- grown principally in Piedmont counties -- remained unchanged from the 246,975,000 pounds which has been forecast since the middle of Aug-

(Continued on Page 2)

AMERICA'S MOST MODERN BIG BUILDING



Attracting world-wide attention and hailed as the "most significant new building in this country", the coliseum on the State Fair Grounds (also called "a livestock judging pavilion", but officially named "The State Fair Arena") is destined to serve agriculture, industry, commerce and the general welfare of North Carolina as a year 'round center for educational, inspirational and recreational events.

OCTOBER TOBACCO *(Cont'd)*

ust. This is a fourth less than last year's production of 330,050,000 pounds and is 13 percent below the 10-year average. The average yield per acre expected this season is 925 pounds. Both the yield per acre and total production for this type are the lowest since 1943. Extensive drought conditions throughout the season account primarily for the short crop. A considerable proportion of the crop in many areas remained to be barned after October 1.

For Type 12, production is now set at 441,885,000 pounds, or nearly 12,000,000 pounds more than the estimate of a month earlier. With about two-thirds of the crop sold by October 1, sales data and reports from growers both indicated a heavier crop than was expected a month ago. The current estimate of production for Type 12 is about 2 percent below the 452,120,000 pounds harvested in 1952 but is nearly 12 percent above the 1942-51 average production. This year's yield per acre now stands at 1335 pounds, comparing with a 1270-pound yield in 1952.

Type 13 production in North Carolina is presently estimated at 117,820,000 pounds, only slightly above the 115,920,000 produced in 1952 but a fourth more than the average from 1942 through 1951. This year's indicated yield of 1370 pounds per acre compares with a yield of 1260 pounds in 1952. By October 1, about nine-tenths of the Border Belt crop had been sold.

In the North Carolina Burley Belt, production prospects dropped about a half million pounds during September. Thus, a crop of 19,210,000 pounds was estimated as of October 1. Such a crop is about a million pounds below the 20,160,000 pounds produced last year but almost a fourth larger than the 1942-51 average. This year's average yield per acre is currently estimated at 1700 pounds, 20 pounds above that of 1952.

The total U. S. flue-cured production for 1953 is estimated at 1,233,602,000 pounds, 10 percent below the 1,365,341,000 pounds harvested last year.

OCTOBER 1 COTTON REPORT

The North Carolina cotton crop for 1953 is forecast at 460,000 bales (500-pounds gross weight). This October 1 forecast is unchanged from the August 1 and September 1 predictions and is 19 percent below the 1952 crop of 569,000 bales and 11 percent below the 10-year (1942-51) average production of 522,000 bales.

The current crop is the most rapid-moving on record in North Carolina, with approximately 50 percent of the crop ginned prior to October 1. The crop has been completely harvested on many individual farms, particularly throughout the eastern counties.

Lint yield per acre is placed at 290 pounds -- 76 pounds below 1952 yield and compares with 345 pounds for the 1942-51 average yield per acre. The lower 1953 yield is the result of the combined onslaught of drought and heavy weevil infestation. The above production is based upon the prospective 290-pound yield from a currently forecast 762,000 acres for harvest.

The Nation's 1953 cotton crop is currently forecast at 15,596,000 bales (500-pounds gross weight). This is 3 percent more than the 15,136,000 bales produced last year and is 28 percent above the 10-year (1942-51) average production.

(See table on Page 3)

CORN PROSPECTS UNCHANGED

The North Carolina corn crop for 1953 is forecast at 58,380,000 bushels. The October 1 forecast is the same as September 1.

The current forecast of 58,380,000 bushels, if realized, would be 3.9 percent above the poor 1952 crop, but about three million bushels below the 1942-51 average crop.

The yield per acre is estimated at 26.5 bushels. This compares with an average yield of 25.5 bushels last year and the 10-year average yield of 17.4 bushels.

COTTON CONDITION, ESTIMATED ACREAGE FOR HARVEST AND PRODUCTION, OCTOBER 1, 1953, ALL STATES

State	Acreage For Harvest 1953* (Prelim)	Oct. 1 Condition			Lint Yield Per Acre			Production (500# bales)			Ginnings To Oct. 1 1953
		Average 1942-1951	1952 Crop	Indicated 1953 Crop	Average 1942-1951	1952 Crop	Indicated 1953 Crop	Average 1942-1951	1952 Crop	1953 Crop Indicated	
	(000) Acres	(Percent)			(Pounds)			(Thousand Bales)			
North Carolina	762	74	79	68	345	366	290	522	569	460	232
Missouri.....	494	75	82	73	379	385	364	345	394	375	188
Virginia.....	29	-	-	-	362	424	298	20	23	18	8
South Carolina	1,075	72	63	74	315	286	324	697	657	725	433
Georgia.....	1,354	71	63	74	252	245	280	716	729	790	479
Flordia.....	64	76	81	67	192	271	202	15	30	27	13
Tennessee.....	891	75	72	71	364	366	323	543	638	600	234
Alabama.....	1,580	73	64	77	285	275	301	911	890	990	593
Mississippi...	2,360	73	79	86	337	385	417	1,670	1,906	2,050	949
Arkansas.....	1,849	71	70	73	334	345	344	1,355	1,366	1,325	451
Louisiana.....	910	71	80	81	314	408	404	568	756	765	295
Oklahoma.....	993	61	39	69	160	105	193	429	264	400	79
Texas.....	8,977	71	61	70	183	171	217	3,162	3,808	4,050	1,402
New Mexico....	312	86	93	90	483	527	485	173	330	315	25
Arizona.....	675	89	91	93	525	682	690	312	948	970	113
California....	1,396	93	91	86	615	622	593	763	1,818	1,725	50
Other States..	16	-	-	-	355	337	339	13	10	11	3
United States.	23,737	73	71	77	271.4	282.7	315.4	12,215	15,136	15,596	5,547

* *September 1 estimate.*

ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS, 1952 AND INDICATED OCTOBER 1, 1953, NORTH CAROLINA

CROPS	UNIT	ACREAGE			YIELD			PRODUCTION		
		Average 1942-51	Harvested 1952	Indicated 1953	Average 1942-51	1952	Indicated 1953	Average 1942-51	1952	Indicated 1953
		Thousands			Units			Thousands		
Corn, all	Bu.	2,232	2,203	2,203	27.4	25.5	26.5	61,059	56,176	58,380
Wheat, all	Bu.	427	396	388	16.1	21.0	20.0	6,860	8,316	7,760
Oats	Bu.	354	373	403	28.5	34.0	38.0	10,206	12,682	15,314
Barley	Bu.	39	43	40	26.2	32.5	37.0	1,001	1,398	1,480
Rye	Bu.	26	15	14	12.0	15.0	15.0	303	225	210
Sorghums, all		33	58	80	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sorghums for grain	Bu.	14 3/	43	64	26.4 3/	27.0	25.0	390 3/	1,161	1,600
Tobacco, Flue-cured	Lbs.	670.0	735.0	684	1,154	1,222	1,179	775,291	898,090	806,680
Type 11	Lbs.	261.7	287.0	267	1,084	1,150	925	284,910	330,050	246,975
Type 12	Lbs.	328.2	356.0	331	1,203	1,270	1,335	395,530	452,120	441,885
Type 13	Lbs.	80.1	92.0	86	1,180	1,260	1,370	94,852	115,920	117,820
Type 31	Lbs.	10.3	12.0	11.3	1,487	1,680	1,700	15,567	20,160	19,210
Cotton	Lbs.	719	745	762 4/	345	366	290	522 4/	569 4/	460 4/
Irish Potatoes, all	Bu.	74	44	47	132	124	132	9,513	5,456	6,204
Sweetpotatoes, all	Bu.	60	39	45	107	100	90	6,492	3,900	4,050
Soybeans grown alone		400	432	393	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soybeans, for beans	Bu.	252	290	259	13.4	16.5	14.5	3,434	4,785	3,756
Peanuts grown alone		294	210	193	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peanuts picked & threshed	Lbs.	277	201	185	1,106	1,550	1,100	304,009	311,550	203,500
Hay, all	Tons	1,266	1,227	1,207	1.01	1.08	.89	1,280	1,325	1,073
Clover & timothy 1/	Tons	93	106	105	1.14	1.10	1.10	106	117	116
Alfalfa hay	Tons	30	70	77	2.10	2.05	1.95	64	144	150
Lespedeza hay	Tons	509	518	513	1.08	1.10	.75	551	570	385
Pasture condition	%	-	-	-	-	-	-	81	77	54
Peaches	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,731	1,648	1,180
Apples, commercial 2/	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,067	2,053	873
Pears	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	179	172	147
Grapes	Tons	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.8	2.7	2.5
Pecans	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,290	2,546	2.812

1/ Excludes sweetclover and lespedeza hay.

2/ Estimates of the commercial crop refer to the total production of apples in the commercial apple areas of each state.

3/ Short-time average.

4/ 500-lb. gross weight bales.

ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS, 1952 AND INDICATED OCTOBER 1, 1953, UNITED STATES

CROPS	UNIT	ACREAGE			YIELD			PRODUCTION		
		Average 1942-51	Harvested 1952	Indicated 1953	Average 1942-51	1952	Indicated 1953	Average 1942-51	1952	Indicated 1953
		Thousands			Units			Thousands		
Corn, all	Bu.	86,447	81,359	80,694	35.2	40.6	39.6	3,036,380	3,306,735	3,196,101
Wheat, all	Bu.	45,249	50,348	46,105	17.1	18.3	17.3	1,088,548	1,291,447	1,163,231
Oats	Bu.	39,503	38,643	39,433	33.5	32.8	30.6	1,324,614	1,268,280	1,205,106
Barley	Bu.	11,831	8,264	8,455	25.1	27.5	28.1	295,299	227,008	237,476
Rye	Bu.	2,108	1,285	1,375	12.2	11.5	12.7	25,837	15,910	17,452
Sorghums, all		14,108	10,841	13,617	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sorghums for grain	Bu.	7,347	5,089	6,848	18.4	16.4	16.7	137,263	83,316	114,590
Tobacco, all	Lbs.	1,677.4	1,773.0	1,655.6	1,158	1,272	1,223	1,948,844	2,254,355	2,032,557
Tobacco, flue-cured	Lbs.	996.9	1,111.3	1,030.9	1,144	1,229	1,197	1,144,616	1,365,341	1,233,602
Cotton	Lbs.	21,482	25,664	23,737 4/	271.4	282.7	315.4	12,215 4/	15,136 4/	15,596 4/
Irish potatoes, all	Bu.	2,265.2	1,398.0	1,501.7	191.2	248.6	249.0	411,007	347,504	373,939
Sweetpotatoes	Bu.	583.3	325.8	351.6	93.6	86.8	95.9	54,331	28,292	33,709
Soybeans grown alone		13,300	15,643	15,781	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soybeans, for beans	Bu.	11,114	14,075	14,335	19.7	20.7	18.1	219,596	291,682	259,483
Peanuts grown alone		3,664	1,933	1,895	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peanuts picked & threshed.	Lbs.	2,951	1,459	-	714	928	920	2,062,522	1,354,010	1,393,995
Hay, all	Tons	74,666	74,664	74,967	1.37	1.40	1.41	102,296	104,424	105,563
Alfalfa	Tons	15,925	19,024	20,019	2.21	2.23	2.17	35,252	42,438	43,462
Clover & Timothy 1/	Tons	22,087	21,683	21,276	1.40	1.46	1.42	31,024	31,755	30,299
Lespedeza	Tons	6,629	5,661	6,125	1.07	.91	.80	7,110	5,147	4,911
Pasture condition	%	-	-	-	-	-	-	79	67	56
Peaches 2/	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	67,012	62,560	63,894
Apples, commercial 3/	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	109,224	92,489	97,262
Pears	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,396	30,947	28,901
Grapes	Tons	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,874.2	3,173.4	2,770.4
Pecans	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	126,518	147,946	181,136

1/ *Excludes sweetclover and lespedeza hay.*
2/ *Production includes some quantities unharvested on account of economic conditions.*
3/ *Estimates of the commercial crop refer to the total production of apples in the commercial apple areas of each state.*
4/ *500-lb. gross weight bales.*

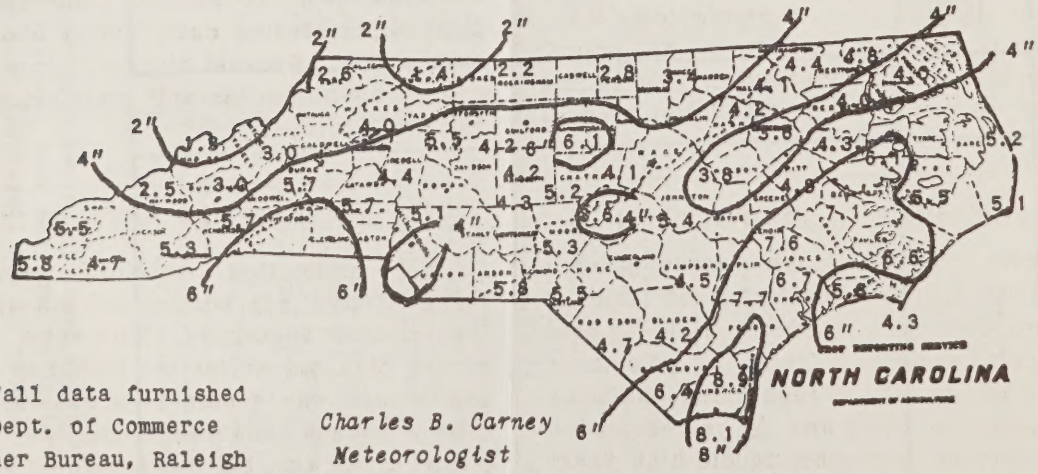
SEPTEMBER WEATHER SUMMARY

Tropical storms have strong influence on average September weather in North Carolina, and few Septembers pass without one or more of these storms having its effect on the weather. This year four full-fledged hurricanes and one lesser storm came into the picture, but only one affected the State strongly. A small storm lying off the Georgia coast at the beginning of September moved inland over Georgia on the 1st, but caused only light rain on the southern portion of North Carolina. Hurricanes passed some distance offshore in the Atlantic on the 6th, 12th and 13th, but all were too far away to have a great deal of effect on North Carolina weather. Finally, on the 26th, a hurricane moved out of the Gulf of Mexico across north Florida into Georgia where it died, but not before giving North Carolina the most general heavy rain since Spring.

September is normally a dry month except where affected by tropical storms, and such was the case this year. A slow-moving front which crossed the State on the 5th and 6th caused the first statewide general rain in several weeks, but amounts were less than an inch over at least half of the State's area, some of it lying in the driest sections. Other fronts passing on the 13th and on the 17th through the 21st produced scattered showers, heavy in some places but negligible in others. On the 25th, cloudiness and rain spreading northward from a hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico reached the southern portion of North Carolina. By the night of the 26th, steady rain was falling on all parts of the State. Total amounts from this storm ranged from more than six inches on the southeast coast down to less than an inch in the northern mountains, the greater part of the State getting two inches or more.

There were no unusual extremes of temperature in North Carolina during September. The month began and ended on a slightly warm note, with most of the time in between just a little cooler than long-term averages for the time of the year. Thus, the month as a whole averaged out about a degree below normal in most parts of the State. The highest temperatures generally occurred on one of the first three days of the month, when readings in the 90's were recorded from the mountains to the coast. The coolest day over the State as a whole was the 23rd, but some localities had their lowest morning temperatures on other dates. There was some light frost in the mountain valleys, but few places outside the mountains dropped below forty degrees at any time.

NORTH CAROLINA - INCHES OF RAINFALL, SEPTEMBER 1953



Rainfall data furnished
By Dept. of Commerce
Weather Bureau, Raleigh

Charles B. Carney
Meteorologist

GENERAL SITUATION *(Cont'd)*

13 tobacco had been harvested. Picking of corn was also getting under way in the Eastern commercial area but harvesting of cotton and grading and marketing of tobacco was offering stiff competition to corn harvest.

Preparation of seed beds for planting small grains, pasture and winter cover crops has been delayed by lack of moisture but tractors have been going overtime in recent days in an attempt on the part of the farmers to catch up with plowing and fall seeding operations.

APPLE PRODUCTION DOWN

Tar Heel apple prospects on October 1 remained the same as the previous month's estimate of 873,000 bushels. However, this production, if realized, will be 57 percent below last year's record-high production of 2,053,000 bushels and 18 percent below the 10-year average production of 1,067,000 bushels.

PEANUT ESTIMATE LOWER

The 1953 North Carolina picked and threshed peanut crop is estimated at 203,500,000 pounds as of October 1. A crop of this size, if realized, would be the smallest in 20 years and 35 percent below the 311,550,000 pounds produced last year.

A reduction in acreage of 8 percent or 16,000 acres from last year accounts for part of this decrease in production. However, a decrease in yield from 1,550 pounds in 1952 to 1,100 pounds this year is primarily responsible for the lower production.

RECORD EGG PRODUCTION

North Carolina flocks produced a total of 104 million eggs during the month of September, 1953, a record high for that particular month. This is 22 percent above the 85 million eggs produced during September of 1952 and 20 percent above the previous September record-high years of 1950 and 1951.

HAY PROSPECTS DECLINE

Even though many sections of the State have received good rains in recent weeks, these rains were too late to be of much help in the production of most hay crops. The October 1 forecast of hay production is 1,703,000 tons, the smallest crop since 1941, -- 252,000 tons below 1952 and 207,000 tons below the 10-year average production of 1,280,000 tons. Reasonably good yields were obtained for the early hay crops such as grain hay, clover-timothy and the first cuttings of alfalfa. The prolonged drought, however, has cut sharply into yields of soybean, lespedeza and late cuttings of alfalfa. Peanut hay yields are expected to be near average.

SOYBEAN PROSPECTS DECLINE

As of October 1, a 3,755,500 bushel soybean crop is estimated for 1953, -- a decrease of about 3.4 percent from last month's estimate of 3,885,000 bushels. Such a production, if realized, will be 12 percent below last year's production, but 9 percent above the 10-year average of 3,434,000 bushels.

GRAIN STOCKS VARIABLE

In North Carolina, stocks of corn, wheat, and soybeans on farms October 1 were below those of a year earlier. Other stocks, however, including oats, barley and rye, were higher. Present stocks of corn, rye and soybeans are the only ones below the 1942-51 average.

MILK PRODUCTION SETS RECORD

Milk production on North Carolina farms totaled 149 million pounds during the month of September. This set a new record high output for the month of September and was 3 percent above the 144 million pounds produced during the same period a year ago, but was 8 percent below August production of 162 million pounds.

FARM REPORT

Compiled by authority of the
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
S. R. Newell, Assistant Chief
and published by the
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Division of Statistics
L.Y. Ballentine, Commissioner of Agriculture

Released semi-monthly through the
Crop Reporting Service at Raleigh
Henry L. Rasor, Statistician in Charge

PRIMARILY FOR DISTRIBUTION TO
CROP REPORTERS AND AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

ORIGINAL INFORMATION DIRECT FROM
FARMERS AND OTHER LOCAL SOURCES

SORGHUM GRAIN PRODUCTION ABOVE LAST YEAR

The condition of grain sorghum as of October 1, indicates that a crop of 1,600,000 bushels will be harvested this season. If such a crop materializes, it will be the largest of record for the State, comparing with 1,161,000 bushels produced last year and 999,000 bushels produced in 1951. The record production, however, will result from an increase in acreage rather than record yields.

An average yield of 25 bushels (the same as the September 1 estimate) is expected this season compared with an average of 27 bushels last year and 30 bushels in 1951.

SWEETPOTATO PRODUCTION ESTIMATE UNCHANGED

Prospective production of sweetpotatoes in North Carolina, as of October 1, showed no change from that of a month earlier. The crop is currently expected to produce 4,050,000 bushels for an average yield of 90 bushels per acre. This compares with last year's total production of 3,900,000 bushels for an average yield of 100 bushels per acre and the 10-year average (1942-51) production of 6,492,000 bushels for an average yield of 107 bushels per acre.

Acreage for harvest in the State this year is currently placed at 45,000 compared with 39,000 in 1952 and the 10-year average of 60,000 acres.